

Project Summary Sheet

Project Name: Riparian Restoration on La Barranca & Blackberry Island

Tracking No: 200784109

Location: La Barranca Unit Sacramento River Mile 237.5-239.5 and Blackberry Island RM 239-340 L

County: Tehama

Project Sponsor: Sacramento River Partners

Point of Contact: Daniel Efseaff, (530) 519-6301 defseaff@RiverPartners.org

Co-applicant(s): None

Assembly District: # 2 Doug La Malfa **Senate District:** # 4 Samuel Aanestad

Project Summary: River Partners seeks \$1,672,003 to restore 325 (approximately 295 acres on the La Barranca Unit and 30 acres across the river on the Blackberry Island Unit) of the Sacramento River National Wildlife Refuge. Restoration on 200 acres is currently underway as part of a comprehensive floodplain reconnection and riparian restoration project. The earlier phase of this project included reconnection of the river and floodplain, control of invasive non-native plants, and restoration of riparian forest. This phase of the project would complete reforestation efforts on the site.

Flood Benefits: The existing orchard was split at the time of purchase to follow topographical features. Refuge property lies on the flood prone portion of the property that falls below the high water mark associated with a 4-5 year flood frequency. The property above the boundary floods much less frequently. Therefore, frequent flood flows will be contained on Refuge property benefiting east bank homes and infrastructure without increasing flooding off of Refuge property. Conversion of the flood-prone orchard to riparian habitat and increased floodplain will reduce peak flows and runoff, increase sediment trapping, and protect property.

The flood benefits obtained from the first phase of this project included reconnection of the river to the floodplain; restoration topography blocked by a 900-foot long levee and raised roads to improve floodplain storage. The additional flood benefits anticipated from the current proposal---resulting primarily from additional restoration of agricultural land to riparian forest---are anticipated to be minimal.

Agricultural Benefits: N/A

Agricultural Land Conserved: N/A

Wildlife Benefits: This project is the last phase of a restoration project to restore 500 acres of riparian forest along the Sacramento River while removing undesirable non-native plants. In addition, past gravel mining operations have left gravel pits totaling 20.5 acres. The restoration work to reduce fish entrapment hazards was completed with a previous grant award. The request to fund the last phase of this project will further enhance connections to important existing forest fragments and migration corridors for salmon, neotropical birds, and other species. Results from initial restoration work include habitat for the valley elderberry longhorn beetle created by Elderberry plantings, the presence of a bald eagle roost and osprey nests, and the presence of two bank swallow colonies.

Wildlife Habitat Conserved: The proposed project improves wildlife habitat by restoring high quality mixed riparian habitat on nearly 325 acres, control noxious weeds on an additional 400 acres (project activities will influence over 900 acres) and reconnect riparian habitat and reduce weed sources on the most upstream holdings of 10 miles of land in conservation ownership.

Total area conserved: The acreage is already in FWS possession but it will be enhanced and restored with additional habitat.

Other Benefits: The La Barranca and Blackberry Island Units are being considered under a Comprehensive Conservation Plan as candidates for hunting, fishing, education, wildlife viewing, interpretation, and photography activities. The project may also have groundwater recharge and water quality benefits.

Total Cost: \$5,600,000

FPCP Cost: \$1,672,003

Funding Partners and Share of Cost:

- Property acquisition-La Barranca (1993, \$2,800,000) and Blackberry Island (2002, \$157,000).
- Feasibility Study (2002) - The AFRP provided \$40,000.
- Environmental Assessment – USFWS and AFRP funds (\$110,000).
- Prior FPCP Floodplain Reconnection and Restoration Project – \$1,220,000.